



Sadie Weiner

solar tps

1 message

Sadie Weiner

Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 9:01 PM

To: **Ken Eudy**

Julia White

Thanks for doing these, Ken. I made a few edits here. I think these can be useful for the boss...but depending on how things go, will likely need you to help reporters understand what the issue was here.

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Solar Narrative (1) sw.docx
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Solar Messaging

In North Carolina and the nation, we are in a transition in the way we generate electricity that powers our economy. In the past, we've relied on fuels that, while less expensive, we've learned were not great for our environment.

So now, in this transition to a renewable energy future, we want to be purposeful. North Carolina has the second highest solar capacity in the country, and a new law last year set out a pathway for development of renewable energy in North Carolina well into the future.

But as often happens with legislation that is passed in the closing hours of the legislative session, the implementation of the renewables pathway was cluttered with some missing pieces. The central question was the status of solar projects that in line to be connected to the electric grid prior to the signing of HB 589.

The solar industry and Duke Energy had negotiated on HB 589 for a year and frankly, they were weary of the give-and-take. So in November, I strongly suggested that they go back to the negotiating table to work through the implementation of the renewables legislation. They did, and as a result, the solar industry will be able to move forward on the development of hundreds of megawatts of solar energy right away.

Solar projects that had been sidetracked will now be put back on the schedule for implementation. This is good for our economy and our environment.

At the same time, our secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality has issued the Atlantic Coast Pipeline a permit that will allow construction of a natural gas transmission line that will travel through eight counties in eastern North Carolina.

The department has been thorough and relentless in asking the right questions, demanding more information and examining the environmental implications of the pipeline.

We believe that if the Atlantic Coast Pipeline adheres to the permit that DEQ has issued, the environmental impacts will be minimal. At the same time, the availability of more natural gas in eastern North Carolina can be an important asset for economic development.

In assessing our near-term energy future, we engaged the ACP to create a fund that would[transition to ACP narrative]

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